(e) The office is well established and there are a large number of processing units closer to Cochin. Moreover, any shifting will entail large expenditure which is avoidable.

Houses at Cheaper Rates

*432. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that DDA is primarily responsible for the ever increasing number of Jhuggis in Delhi;

(b) whether it is also a fact that DDA has failed to provide houses and land at cheaper rates to the people belonging to lower income class; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) To meet the housing requirement of the growing population, DDA has so far floated 33 housing schemes, out of which 25 have been closed and 8 schemes are alive. DDA has already constructed 2,84,369 houses till February, 2003, out of which 76,234 houses are in LIG category and 91,625 houses for other economically weaker sections. Further 25,414 houses are at various stages of construction, out of which 13,115 houses are in LIG category and 2,696 houses are for economically weaker sections. It has also facilitated construction of large number of houses through plotted development and co-operative group housing societies. Owing to socio-economic factors beyond the control of DDA, there has been a menifold increase in the population of Delhi in the last 3 decades, leading to a consequential pressure on land and the coming up of jhuggis.

To decongest Delhi and encourage dispersal of population and economic activities from Delhi, the Government constituted the National Capital Region Planning Board in 1985 which has, through the years helped in creation of residential and industrial areas and physical infrastructure in the national Capital Region.

Rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers of Turkman Gate Delhi

*433. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU) : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that slum dwellers of Turkman Gate area of Delhi were removed and subsequently re-allotted quarters at the same area;